70. Needs of the Neyyattinkara taluk.

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Member, Neyyattinkara taluk, Group I*) said that some of the foremost needs of the Neyyattinkara taluk related to minor irrigation. The taluk suffered much in this matter owing to the negligence of the P. W. D. Officers in charge of the works. The special irrigation section of the P. W. D. was formed in 1099. In the course of the five years the section was carrying on its existence, it had repaired or restored no more than thirty out of the seven hundred irrigation tanks in the taluk. Working at this rate they would require about one hundred years to finish the whole work. In order to save such inordinate delay, a definite period should be fixed within which the entire work ought to be executed. The manner in which the repairs were done was also equally interesting. Some earth was spaded out from the tanks and deposited on their banks. With one rain the whole thing ran into the tank and filled it up. This would not happen if the earth thrown on the banks was properly covered with turf. The Chief Engineer would, it was hoped, devote his special attention to this matter.

A dam should be constructed at Aruvikara in the Maranalloor pakuthi. The Neyyar was practically of no use for irrigational purposes, the bed of the river being very low. Hence it was that as early as the year 1064 Government thought of constructing a dam at Aruvikara. The proposal was, however, given up very soon. Two years ago Mr. M. P. Mani, Executive Engineer, inspected the locality in the company of the member and expressed himself in favour of the scheme. The member was, however, informed subsequently that the scheme was not a very practicable one and that it will not be of much use. The subject was taken up again at the 24th session, when Government promised to investigate it further but no action had yet been taken in the matter.

The Kodayar Right Bank Channel should be made serviceable to the ryots of Neyyattinkara also. That this was the original intention of Government could be seen from the pattas issued to the ryots at the time.

The construction of the Aruvikara dam and the extension of the Kodayar Right Bank channel were pressed upon the attention of Government only as two means of improving agriculture in the Neyyattinkara taluk. Any other means in the place of these would be equally welcome. A committee might well be appointed consisting of the Chief Engineer, the Director of Agriculture, the local Tahsildar, the M. L. C. of the taluk, and the S. M. P. A. member to investigate this question.

The following roads, bridges, culverts etc. should be taken up as early as possible:—

(1) A culvert on the Udiyankulangara-Kulathurchavadi road where it crossed the canal near the Kulathur pakuthi cutchery;

(2) A culvert on the Amaravila—Ottasekharamangalam road at the place called Kannankzuhi *i. e.*, at the 4th furlong from the turning from the Amaravila main road; the three culverts on the same road

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

between the 6th mile and the 9th mile; a small bridge over the Chittar at the 9th mile; and a bridge at the Mandapathumkadavu on the Neyyar.

(3) A small bridge on the Kulathur road near the Ayirayil tank.

(4) A bridge across the Neyyar at Poovar. With the construction of this bridge an easy and very useful means of communication will be established *via* Poovar, Vizhinjam, and Kovilam to Trivandrum, which will serve as a 'relief road' to the Main Southern Road;

(5) A cartable road from the Udiyankulangara-Chenkal road, 1st mile, to the Kanjirammuttu Kadavu on the Neyyar, a ferry at the Kanjirammuttu Kadavu; and a cartable road from that place to the Neyyattinkara-Poovar road.

(6) A cartable road from Pongamudu on the Neyyattinkara—Kattakada road to near the Aruvikara temple; a road from there to Kizharur *via* Kodannur; and a cartable road from the Kizharur Kadavu to the Amaravila-Ottasekharamangalam road.

(7) Conversion of the road from the Amaravila—Ottasekharamangalam road, 1st mile, to the Amaravila—Vellarada road, 4th mile, into a cart-road.

A manure depot should be established in Neyyattinkara.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Padmanabha Pillai, you ask again for a dam to be put at Aruvikarai for purposes of irrigation. I understand the Executive Engineer went over the place with yourself and explained the whole position to you. In this matter we must assume that the Engineers know a great deal more than you or I can know; and their considered opinion is that a dam there will be of little use and will not assist cultivation in any way.

I shall ask the Chief Engineer to take up the question of the construction of a culvert on the road from the Udiyankulangara-Kulathurchavadi road, and the Poovar-Sankurutti road and also the question of the bridges and culverts on the Amaravila-Ottasekharamangalam road. You also refer to the desirability of a bridge at Poovar. When I was at Poovar the other day I inspected this place and I too agree with you that a bridge there will certainly be desirable. I shall ask the Chief Engineer to put it down in his programme of places in the order of urgency to be taken up in due course. Your suggestions for a ferry at Kanjiramuttu Kadavu will also be taken up as also the other points on which you dwelt.

71. Needs of the Neyyattinkara taluk.

MR. NARAYANA PILLAI GOVINDA PILLAI (*Member, Neyyattinkara taluk, Group II*) said that minor irrigation works in the Neyyattinkara taluk were not receiving due attention and he suggested that stringent instructions should be issued to the officers concerned to repair not less than one hundred tanks in the taluk in the current year itself. Of the seven hundred and odd tanks in the taluk, the irrigation officers had so far repaired only about thirty-five. At this rate the completion of the whole work would extend over so many years.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly